

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 411

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4167

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT BL

SUBJ: FSB POLITICS

REF: LA PAZ 3989

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MARIO GUTIERREZ AND CARLOS VALVERDE CONTINUE THEIR POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN THE FSB, DESPITE THE RECENT CALL BY A GROUP OF FSB MILITANTS FOR A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN. IN ADDITION TO NAMING HIS OWN CHIEFS OF THE DEPARTMENTAL AND YOUTH CELLS OF THE PARTY, VALVERDE IN RECENT DAYS HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A NATION-WIDE TOUR TO MEET WITH HIS SUPPORTERS. WHILE IN SANTA CRUZ ON JULY 4, VALVERDE REPORTEDLY MET AND LUNCHEDED WITH GUTIERREZ, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT BANZER DURING THE LATTER'S MEETINGS WITH PARAGUAYAN PRESIDENT STROESSNER.

2. ALTHOUGH THE VALVERDE-GUTIERREZ MEETING RAISED THE PROSPECT OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN, SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE THAT THEIR DISPUTE REMAINS UNRESOLVED. IN THE JULY 10 LA PAZ PRESS, VALVERDE REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT ACCEPT THE POSITION OF SUB-JEFE OF THE FSB, NOTING THAT HE ALREADY CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE

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"SOLE CHIEF" OF THE PARTY. ON THE SAME DAY, PRESS ACCOUNTS EMANATING

FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT BANZER, WHILE VISITING SANTA CRUZ, CRITICIZED VALVERDE FOR HAVING CREATED DIVISIONS WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE FPN. IF TRUE, THESE STATEMENTS WOULD REPRESENT

BANZER'S FIRST OVERT INTERVENTION IN THE FSB LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. A RELIABLE MNR SOURCE JULY 9 CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS THAT GUTIERREZ IS SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION

TO THE DISPUTE WITH VALVERDE. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE TWO MEN ALREADY HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING THAT WOULD PERMIT VALVERDE TO RETURN TO THE PARTY DURING THE SCHEDULED AUGUST CONVENTION OF THE FSB, IN RETURN FOR WHICH VALVERDE SUPPORTERS WOULD RECEIVE TWO OF THE

FIVE FSB CABINET POSITIONS DURING THE NEXT CABINET SHUFFLE. PERHAPS DEMONSTRATING HIS PARTISAN PREJUDICES, THE SOURCE ADDED THAT GUTIERREZ

WOULD UNDERTAKE THIS COSTLY COMPROMISE BECAUSE THE FSB IS ALREADY SO SMALL THAT ANY SPLIT WOULD LEAVE IT WITH PRACTICALLY NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

4. WHILE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT GUTIERREZ IS PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO PAY SUCH A HIGH PRICE FOR VALVERDE'S RETURN TO THE FOLD, PARTICULARLY IF PRESIDENT BANZER IS DISPOSED TO COME OUT OPENLY IN SUPPORT OF GUTIERREZ, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GUTIERREZ WILL SEEK A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE FSB'S INTERNAL CONFLICT. END CONFIDENTIAL.
SIRACUSA

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